THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) Yes, Air.

(b) and (c) As on date Rs. 525 lakh has been invested for various development works including construction of Gudha Jhapog Dam and borewells and for installation of equipment, conversion of MG railway line into B.G. line and setting up of a Salt Washery.

(d) and (e) Government of Rajasthan had requested for retransfer of the leased out area of Sambhar Salt. However, this request was not agreed to as it is not in the overall interest of the Company.

**Export of Spices**

2347. SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the percentage of export of spices to foreign countries has increased or decreased;

(b) if decreased, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the statistics for the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) While the export of spices has been fluctuating in terms of volume during the last five years in terms of value, the exports have increased.

(b) Government encourages export of value added products. Slight fall in quantity of spices exported is on account of the focus on export of value added spices. The value addition offsets the slight fall in quantity of spices exported.

(c) the statistics for exports of spices for the last five years are given in the table below:—

| Year | Quantity (Tonnes) | Value (Rs. lakhs) |
|---|---|---|
| 1995-96 | 203,398 | 80443.01 |
| 1996-97 | 225,295 | 123071.77 |
| 1997-98 | 242,071 | 146681.60 |
| 1998-99(P) | 231,389 | 175802.20 |
| 1999-2000(E) | 208,825 | 186102.80 |

(P) *Provisional*
(E) Estimated
Source: *Spices Board*

## Procedure for getting package of Assistance for Industries

2348. SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the procedure for getting a package of assistance for industries;

(b) on what basis Government declare Reliance Industries as a sick industry;

(c) whether there is increase in percentage of SSIs in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.